

SA/RR

24 September 1957

Chief/G

Evaluation of Employee Suggestion No. 2957

1. In making this suggestion, the suggestor undoubtedly had in mind reports -- such as those issued by the Geography Division and other miscellaneous informal publications issued by various components -- which are stapled together and whose covers are regular ditto paper. Some of these stapled reports are presently covered with heavier weight brown cover sheets on which standard information is printed.

2. It seems to me that the suggestion should not concern itself with a determination of whether firms producing ditto paper now manufacture an extra heavy grade. Rather, it should concern itself with the problem of just how stapled materials can, in fact, be made more secure. If some of our informal publications were covered with heavier grade paper and secured by only one staple, I personally believe that the cover sheet being of heavier grade paper is no guarantee that it would be secured any more firmly to the body of the report than a lighter grade cover.

3. Without regard to weight or stability of cover, it seems to me that the problem of assuring that covers do not become separated from their staples is a problem of amount of bearing surface of the two outside covers directly around and underneath the staple itself.

4. I would like to make a counter-suggestion which I think is an improvement on Suggestion 2957. It is this: That each stapler be provided with a roll of thin fabric tape, which can be cut off in inch squares and affixed to the covers through which the staples will go. This would provide an inch square bearing surface for the staples, which would essentially do away with the strain of pull and wear at the immediate point of contact between the staple and the paper. This inch patch would distribute the wear and tear over a greater surface and would thus protect the back and front covers of the report. These fabric reinforcement tabs could be used on reports or informal publications that do not warrant a more elaborate and more expensive heavier cover.

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5. The suggestion, as it is made, does not appear to add anything to our already existing knowledge about the binding of stapled reports, as we are already doing essentially what is suggested for certain types of reports. Neither does it analyze the real problem -- that of paper tearing away from its staples -- which the evaluator believes still exists with the use of extra heavy grade paper for cover sheets.

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Enclosure: Suggestion No. 2957

Distribution:

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